



2018

Guide to the New England Theatre Conference Records, 1950-2011

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**New England Theatre Conference Records,
1950 - 2011
(MSS-010)**

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Table of Contents

Administrative History

Scope and Content Note

Series Descriptions

Box and Folder List

Series 1: Annual Conventions, 1952-2008

Series 2: Divisions and Events, 1953-2000

Subseries 1: Community Theatre Division

Subseries 2: Professional Theatre Division

Subseries 3: Children's Theatre Division

Subseries 4: Secondary School Division

Subseries 5: College Theatre Division

Subseries 6: Events

Series 3: Publications, 1953-2011

Subseries 1: Journals

Subseries 2: NETC News (newsletter) and NETC Bulletin

Subseries 3: NETC Publications and Directories

Series 4: Awards, 1957-2002

Subseries 1: Moss Hart Memorial Award

Subseries 2: John Gassner Memorial Award

Subseries 3: Major, Special, Regional, and Other Awards

Series 5: Committees, 1950-2004

Subseries 1: Executive Committee and Board Meetings

Subseries 2: Other Committees

Series 6: Financials, 1952-2008**Series 7: Administrative, 1950-2008****Subseries 1: Membership****Subseries 2: Auditions****Subseries 3: By-laws, Constitutions, Agreements, etc.****Subseries 4: Board of Directors****Subseries 5: Information on Publications****Subseries 6: Histories, Obituaries, News, etc.****Subseries 7: Miscellaneous****Series 8: NETC 50th Anniversary Oral History Project, 1994-2002****Series 9: Photographs and Audio/Visual, 1964-2000****Subseries 1: Photographs****Subseries 2: Audio/Video****New England Theatre Conference
Administrative History**

Founded in 1946 by acclaimed drama critic Elliot Norton, the New England Theatre Conference (NETC) is a “non-profit Corporation, composed of individuals and organizations in the Six-State Region of New England, who are active or interested in the performing arts.” Norton began this organization with the purpose of displaying the benefit of networking and collaboration within the performing arts community. The organization focuses on providing opportunities for its members through its various different subdivisions and committees in an effort to meet the needs of its members through its various events, including its annual conference and auditions. The organization, within its extensive history, is divided into various divisions, including the Children’s Theatre Division, Professional Theatre Division, Community Theatre Division, College Division, and Secondary School Division. As well as functioning as its own separate entity, the organization works with other organizations such as the American Association for Community Theatre and the USITT or United States Institute for Technical Theatre. With its current residence in Connecticut, the organization aims to continue to provide a voice for all theater practitioners in New England and to expand its support and encouragement of theater. The NETC recognizes excellence in local live theater through its annual awards, including the historic Gassner, Moss Hart, Harris, and Phillips Awards.

**New England Theatre Conference
Scope and Content Note**

The archive covers a broad span of the organization’s history. The most prominent aspect of this collection is its vast and methodical record keeping in regards to the organization’s annual convention. It also features many of NETC’s publications, including the regularly circulating *NETC News*, a monthly volume newsletter, as well as more focused publications. The collection contains dated programs and flyers from each individual event put on by the organization. It also

features a great deal on the inner workings of the group, documenting its history of memberships and correspondence. In addition, there is a detailed log of membership and administrative history, as well as financial reports.

New England Theatre Conference Series Descriptions

Series 1: Annual Conventions, 1952-2008

9 boxes

This is a collection of the yearly conferences held by the organization. It consists of all their program participants, location sites, planning, and publicity. Published programs for each year can be found at the beginning of the series.

Series 2: Divisions and Events, 1953-2000

5 boxes

Due to the diverse needs of the theatre community, the organization was broken down into various sub-divisions responsible for handling the needs of those in its jurisdiction. This series also contains material on events outside of the annual convention. These events include a regional drama festival as well as a few others.

Series 3: Publications, 1953-2011

3 boxes

This series consists of the major publications produced by the organization, including their regular seasonal newsletters, *NETC News*, as well as their older pieces of publications such as the Conference Bulletins and the *NETC Journal* (which was revived in 1990). In addition to the physical publications themselves, there are also various pieces of correspondence and planning leading up to the publication and distribution. Organizational resource directories are in this series as well.

Series 4: Awards, 1957-2002

3 boxes

After the organization's first major conference, and the death of various important members, the organization began honoring significant contributions in the theater community. This series consists of the information obtained on the history of the awards themselves, and a record of previous winners.

Series 5: Committees, 1950-2004

3 boxes

The bulk of this series represents Executive Committee material pertaining to the Board of Directors. Over the years numerous other committees have been created to help with both short-

term and long-term issues. Information on these special projects committees and other can be found in this series. Other committee material may be found mixed in with series 1, Annual Conventions, series 2, Divisions and Events, and series 7, Administrative.

Series 6: Financials, 1952-2008

2 boxes

This series contains the financial records and book keeping done by the organization. It consists of budget summaries, fiscal reports, audit summaries and various other pieces of financial information.

Series 7: Administrative, 1950-2008

5 boxes

This series is broken down into seven subseries: membership, auditions, by-laws and constitutions, board of directors, information pertaining to publications, histories and other related news, and more. Much of the material, such as board of director's documents, has related material in other parts of the collection.

Series 8: NETC 50th Anniversary Oral History Project, 1994-2002

2 boxes

In 2001 the NETC published a transcribed oral history to celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary. This series contains transcripts of the interviews in both original and edited form, as well as recordings of the interviews and digital files of the interviews.

Series 9: Photographs and Audio/Visual, 1964-2000

1 box

This series contains photos from the organization from their annual conventions. It also contains audio recordings of speeches and other various recordings kept by the organization.

**New England Theater Conference
Box and Folder List****Series 1: Annual Conventions, 1952-2008****Box 1****Folder**

1. 1st Annual NETC Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1952
2. 2nd Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1953
3. 3rd Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1954
4. 4th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1955
5. 5th Annual Convention Program, Medford, MA, 1956
6. 6th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1957

7. 7th Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1958
8. 8th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1959
9. 9th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1960
10. 10th Annual Convention Program, Newton Centre, MA, 1961
11. 11th Annual Convention Program, Cambridge, MA, 1962
12. 12th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1963
13. 13th Annual Convention Program, Medford, MA, 1964
14. 14th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1965
15. 15th Annual Convention Program, Waltham, MA, 1966
16. 16th Annual Convention Program, Cambridge, MA, 1967
17. 17th Annual Convention Program, Medford, MA, 1968
18. 18th Annual Convention Program, Waltham, MA, 1969
19. 19th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1970
20. 20th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1971
21. 21st Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1972
22. 22nd Annual Convention Program, Medford, MA, 1973
23. 23rd Annual Convention Program, Durham, NH, 1974
24. 24th Annual Convention Program, Waltham, MA, 1975
25. 26th Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1977
26. 27th Annual Convention Program, Storrs, CT, 1978
27. 28th Annual Convention Program, Amherst, MA, 1979
28. 29th Annual Convention Program, Durham, NH, 1980
29. 30th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1981
30. 31st Annual Convention Program, Hartford, CT, 1982
31. 32nd Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1983
32. 33rd Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1984
33. 34th Annual Convention Program, Portland, ME, 1985
34. 35th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1986
35. 36th Annual Convention Program, New Haven, CT, 1987
36. 37th Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1988
37. 38th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1989
38. 39th Annual Convention Program, Portland, ME, 1990
39. 40th Annual Convention Program, New Haven, CT, 1991
40. 41st Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1992
41. 42nd Annual Convention Program, Springfield, MA, 1993
42. 43rd Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 1994
43. 44th Annual Convention Program, Portland, ME, 1995
44. 45th Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 1996
45. 46th Annual Convention Program, Worcester, MA, 1997
46. 47th Annual Convention Program, Hartford, CT, 1998
47. 48th Annual Convention Program, Killington, VT, 1999
48. 49th Annual Convention Program, New Haven, CT, 2000
49. 50th Annual Convention Program, Boston, MA, 2001
50. 51st Annual Convention Program, Bedford, NH, 2002
51. 52nd Annual Convention Program, Providence, RI, 2003
52. 53rd Annual Convention Program, Portland, ME, 2004

- 53. 54th Annual Convention Program, Wakefield, MA, 2005
- 54. 55th Annual Convention Program, New Haven, CT, 2006
- 55. 56th Annual Convention Program, Waterville Valley, NH, 2007
- 56. 57th Annual Convention Program, Warwick, RI, 2008

Box 2**Folder**

- 1. 1953 Convention
- 2. 1954 Convention
- 3. 1955 Convention (January 14, 1956)
- 4. 1956 Convention
- 5. 1957 Convention
- 6. 1958 Convention
- 7. 1959 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 8. 1959 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 9. 1959 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
- 10. 1959 Convention Annual Award Recipients
- 11. 1960 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 12. 1960 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 13. 1960 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
- 14. 1960 Convention Annual Award Recipients
- 15. 1961 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 16. 1961 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 17. 1961 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
- 18. 1961 Convention Annual Award Recipients
- 19. 1962 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 20. 1962 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 21. 1962 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
- 22. 1962 Convention Annual Award Recipients
- 23. 1963 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 24. 1963 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 25. 1963 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
- 26. 1963 Convention Annual Award Recipients
- 27. 1963 Convention Program Participants
- 28. 1964 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 29. 1964 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 30. 1964 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
- 31. 1964 Convention Annual Award Recipients
- 32. 1964 Convention To Do List
- 33. 1965 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 34. 1965 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 35. 1965 Convention Annual Award Recipients
- 36. 1965 Convention Program Participants
- 37. 1966 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
- 38. 1966 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
- 39. 1966 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses

40. 1966 Convention Annual Award Recipients
41. 1966 Convention Program Participants—Advertisers and Exhibitors
42. 1967 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
43. 1967 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
44. 1967 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
45. 1967 Convention Annual Award Recipients
46. 1968 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
47. 1968 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
48. 1968 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
49. 1968 Convention Annual Award Recipients
50. 1968 Convention Program Participants
51. 1969 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
52. 1969 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
53. 1969 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
54. 1969 Convention Annual Award Recipients

Box 3**Folder**

1. 1970 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
2. 1970 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
3. 1970 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
4. 1970 Convention Annual Award Recipients
5. 1971 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
6. 1971 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
7. 1971 Convention Annual Award Recipients
8. 1971 Convention Program Participants—Advertisers and Exhibitors
9. 1972 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
10. 1972 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
11. 1972 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
12. 1972 Convention Annual Award Recipients
13. 1972 Convention Program Participants
14. 1973 Convention
15. 1974 Convention—Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements and Publicity
16. 1974 Convention—Financial Info—Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements—Annual Award Recipients
17. 1975 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements and Publicity—Program Participants
18. 1975 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses—Committee Reports and Meetings
19. 1975 Convention Annual Award Recipient
20. 1976 Convention Award Recipients and Financial Info—Income and Expenses
21. 1976 Convention Program Participants

Box 4**Folder**

1. 1977 Convention Program Book—Announcements—Publicity
2. 1977 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements

3. 1977 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
4. 1977 Convention Program Participants
5. 1978 Convention Notes and Program
6. 1979 Convention Notes and Program
7. 1979 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
8. 1979 Convention Annual Award Recipients
9. 1979 Convention Program Participants
10. 1980 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
11. 1980 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
12. 1980 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
13. 1980 Convention Annual Award Recipients
14. 1980 Convention Program Participants
15. 1980 Convention Program Participants
16. 1981 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
17. 1981 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
18. 1981 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
19. 1981 Convention Annual Award Recipients
20. 1981 Convention Program Participants

Box 5**Folder**

1. 1982 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
2. 1982 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
3. 1982 Convention Annual Award Recipients
4. 1982 Convention Program Participants
5. 1983 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
6. 1983 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
7. 1983 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
8. 1983 Convention Annual Award Recipients
9. 1983 Convention Program Participants
10. 1983 Convention Program Participants
11. 1983 Convention Program Participants
12. 1984 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
13. 1984 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
14. 1984 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
15. 1984 Convention Annual Award Recipients
16. 1984 Convention Program Participants
17. 1985 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
18. 1985 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
19. 1985 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
20. 1985 Convention Annual Award Recipients
21. 1985 Convention Program Participants

Box 6**Folder**

1. 1986 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity

2. 1986 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
3. 1986 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
4. 1986 Convention Annual Award Recipients
5. 1986 Convention Program Participants
6. 1987 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
7. 1987 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
8. 1987 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
9. 1987 Convention Annual Award Recipients
10. 1987 Convention Program Participants
11. 1987 Convention Program Participants
12. 1988 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity—Annual Award Recipients
13. 1988 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
14. 1988 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
15. 1988 Convention Program Participants
16. 1988 Convention Program Participants
17. 1988 Convention Invitation and Miscellaneous

Box 7**Folder**

1. 1989 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
2. 1989 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
3. 1989 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
4. 1989 Convention Annual Award Recipients
5. 1989 Convention New Vaudeville Festival
6. 1989 New England Conference New Vaudeville
7. 1990 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
8. 1990 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
9. 1990 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expenses
10. 1990 Convention Annual Award Recipient
11. 1990 Convention Program Participants
12. 1990 Convention Program Participants
13. 1991 Convention Information
14. 1991 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
15. 1991 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
16. 1991 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
17. 1991 Convention Annual Award Recipients
18. 1991 Convention Program Participants
19. 1992 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
20. 1992 Convention Committee Reports—Meeting Site and Local Arrangements
21. 1992 Convention Programming and Budget Expenses
22. 1992 Convention Annual Award Recipients
23. 1993 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
24. 1993 Convention Info and Scheduling
25. 1993 Convention Budget
26. 1994 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity

27. 1994 Convention Participants
28. 1994 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense

Box 8**Folder**

1. 1995 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
2. 1995 Convention Program Participants
3. 1995 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
4. 1995 Portland Convention; Nov. 4th Professional Directors Round Table
5. 1996 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
6. 1996 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
7. 1997 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
8. 1997 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
9. 1997 Convention Publishers Showcase
10. 1998 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
11. 1998 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
12. 1998 Convention Program Participants
13. 1998 Convention Annual Award Recipients
14. 1998 Convention Secondary Division Events
15. 1999 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
16. 1999 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
17. 1999 Convention Program Participants
18. 2000 Convention Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
19. 2000 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
20. 2000 Convention Program Participants
21. 2000 Convention Award Winners
22. 2000 Convention—Secondary Division Events
23. 2001 Convention (50th Anniversary) Program Book—Convention Notes—Announcements—Publicity
24. 2001 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
25. 2001 Award Winners
26. 2001 Convention—Publishers Showcase Program
27. 2001 Convention—Publishers Showcase Information

Box 9**Folder**

1. 2003 Convention—Programming
2. 2003 Convention Financial Info—Income and Expense
3. 2003 Convention Program Participants
4. 2003 Convention Program Participants
5. 2003 Convention Award Winners
6. 2003 Convention Planning
7. 2003 Convention Planning
8. 2003 Convention Planning
9. 2004-2006 Convention Planning

Series 2: Divisions and Events, 1953-2000**Subseries 1: Community Theatre Division****Box 1****Folder**

1. NETC list of annual awards: Community Theatre Drama Festival, 1954-1993
2. Community Theatre Division, 1959-1966
3. Community Theatre Division, 1966-1967
4. Community Theatre Division, 1967-1968
5. Community Theatre Division, 1968-1969
6. Community Theatre Division, 1969-1970
7. Community Theatre Division, 1970-1971
8. Community Theatre Division, 1971-1972
9. Community Theatre Division, 1972-1973
10. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1973
11. Community Theatre Division, 1973-1974
12. Community Theatre Division, 1974-1975
13. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1975
14. Community Theatre Division, 1975-1976
15. Community Theatre Division, 1976-1977
16. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1977
17. Community Theatre Division, 1977-1978
18. Community Theatre Division, 1978-1979
19. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1979
20. Community Theatre Division, 1979-1980
21. Community Theatre Division, Drama Festival, 1979-1982
22. Community Theatre Division, 1980-1981
23. Community Theatre Division Conference, Concord, MA, 1981
24. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1981
25. Community Theatre Division, 1981-1982
26. Community Theatre Division Conference, Clinton, CT, 1982
27. Community Theatre Division, 1982-1983
28. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1983
29. Community Theatre Division, Spring workshop, Providence, RI, 1983
30. Community Theatre Division, 1983-1984
31. Community Theatre Division, Drama Festival, 1983-1986
32. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1984
33. Community Theatre Division, 1984-1985
34. Community Theatre Division, outreach program and meeting, Brandeis, 1984-1986

Box 2**Folder**

1. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1985
2. Community Theatre Division, 1985-1986
3. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1986
4. Community Theatre Division, 1986-1987

5. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1987
6. Community Theatre Division, 1987-1988
7. Community Theatre Division, Drama Festival, 1987-1991
8. Community Theatre Division, 1988-1989
9. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1989
10. Community Theatre Division, 1989-1990
11. Community Theatre Division, 1990-1991
12. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1991
13. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1992-1993
14. Community Theatre Division, Eastern Massachusetts Association of Community Theatres (EMACT) Festival, 1993-1995
15. Eastern Massachusetts Association of Community Theatres workshop, 1996
16. EMACT Festival, 1996-1997
17. Community Theatre Division, New England Regional Festival, 1998
18. EMACT Festival, 1999-2000

Subseries 2: Professional Theatre Division

1. Professional Theatre Division, correspondence, 1960-1983
2. Professional Theatre Division, Directory of New England Summer Theatres, 1963
3. Professional Theatre Division, 1969-1971
4. Professional Theatre Division, 1971-1973
5. Professional Theatre Division, 1974-1976
6. Professional Theatre Division, 1976-1977
7. Professional Theatre Division, 1978-1979
8. Professional Theatre Division, 1979-1980
9. Professional Theatre Division, equity auditions, 1981-1984
10. Professional Theatre Division, equity auditions, Mass. Council Tech Assistance Grant, 1984
11. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, proposal for organizational meetings, 1984-1985
12. Professional Theatre Division, Mass. Council Tech Assistance Grant, 1985
13. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, Articles of Organization/Incorporation, 1985
14. Professional Theatre Division, Boston Women's Theatre Festival, 1985
15. Professional Theatre Division, 1985-1986
16. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, financial reports/accounting, 1985-1987
17. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, brochures and publicity, 1985-1988
18. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, meetings and activities, 1985-1989
19. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, Boston Arts Lottery Grants, 1985-1989

Box 3

Folder

1. Professional Theatre Division, equity auditions, 1985-1989
2. Professional Theatre Division, Women in Theatre Festival, 1986
3. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, Newsletters, 1986-1992
4. Professional Theatre Division, Women in Theatre Festival, 1987
5. Professional Theatre Division, 1987-1988
6. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, guest artist placement service, 1987-1989
7. Professional Theatre Division, Women in Theatre Festival, 1988

8. Professional Theatre Division, Women in Theatre Festival, 1989
9. Professional Theatre Division, 1989-1990
10. Professional Theatre Division-StageSource, meetings and activities, 1989-1993
11. Professional Theatre Division, 1990-1991
12. Professional Theatre Division, 1991-1992
13. Professional Theatre Division, new works, 1994
14. Professional Theatre Division, questionnaire, 1994-1995
15. Professional Theatre Division, survey, 1996

Subseries 3: Children's Theatre Division

1. Children's Theatre Division, 1954-1955
2. Children's Theatre Division, 1956-1957
3. Children's Theatre Division, 1957-1958
4. Children's Theatre Division, 1959-1960
5. Children's Theatre Division, 1960-1961
6. Children's Theatre Division, 1961-1962
7. Children's Theatre Division, 1962-1963
8. Children's Theatre Division, 1963-1964
9. Children's Theatre Division, 1964-1965
10. Children's Theatre Division, 1965-1966
11. Children's Theatre Division, 1966-1967
12. Children's Theatre Division, 1967-1968
13. Children's Theatre Division, 1968-1969
14. Children's Theatre Division, 1969-1970
15. Children's Theatre Division, 1970-1971
16. Children's Theatre Division, 1971-1972
17. Children's Theatre Division, 1972-1973
18. Children's Theatre Division, 1974-1975
19. Children's Theatre Division, "A Child Drama Handbook," 1975
20. Children's Theatre Division, 1975-1976
21. Children's Theatre Division, 1976-1977
22. Children's Theatre Division, 1977-1978
23. Children's Theatre Division, 1978-1979
24. Children's Theatre Division, 1979-1980
25. Children's Theatre Division, 1980-1981
26. Children's Theatre Division, 1981-1982
27. Children's Theatre Division, 1982-1983
28. Children's Theatre Division, 1983-1984
29. Children's Theatre Division, 1984-1985
30. Children's Theatre Division, 1985-1986
31. Children's Theatre Division, 1986-1987
32. Children's Theatre Division, 1987-1988
33. Children's Theatre Division, 1988-1989
34. Children's Theatre Division, 1989-1990
35. Children's Theatre Division, 1990-1991
36. Children's Theatre Division, 1991-1992

Subseries 4: Secondary School Division**Box 4****Folder**

1. Secondary School Division, 1954-1955
2. Secondary School Division, 1955-1956
3. Secondary School Division, 1957-1958
4. Secondary School Division, 1959-1960
5. Secondary School Division, 1960-1961
6. Secondary School Division, 1961-1962
7. Secondary School Division, 1962-1963
8. Secondary School Division, 1963-1964
9. Secondary School Division, 1964-1965
10. Secondary School Division, 1965-1966
11. Secondary School Division, 1966-1967
12. Secondary School Division, 1967-1968
13. Secondary School Division, 1968-1969
14. Secondary School Division, 1969-1970
15. Secondary School Division, 1970-1971
16. Secondary School Division, 1971-1972
17. Secondary School Division, 1972-1973
18. Secondary School Division, 1973-1974
19. Secondary School Division, Drama Teacher Accreditation/Certification, 1974
20. Secondary School Division, 1974-1975
21. Secondary School Division, 1975-1976
22. Secondary School Division, 1976-1977
23. Secondary School Division, 1977-1978
24. Secondary School Division, 1978-1979
25. Secondary School Division, play selection criteria, 1979
26. Secondary School Division, 1979-1980
27. Secondary School Division, student theatre design awards, 1980-1992
28. Secondary School Division, 1980-1981
29. Secondary School Division, 1981-1982
30. Secondary School Division, 1982-1983
31. Secondary School Division, SSTA Wingspread Conference, 1982-1983
32. Secondary School Division, 1983-1984
33. Secondary School Division, 1984-1985
34. Secondary School Division, 1985-1986
35. Secondary School Division, auditions for scholarships, 1986
36. Secondary School Division, 1986-1987
37. Secondary School Division, auditions for scholarships, 1987
38. Secondary School Division, 1987-1988
39. Secondary School Division, auditions for scholarships, 1988
40. Secondary School Division, 1988-1989
41. Secondary School Division, auditions for scholarships, 1989

42. Secondary School Division, 1989-1990
43. Secondary School Division, auditions and scholarships, 1990
44. Secondary School Division, 1990-1991
45. Secondary School Division, auditions and scholarships, 1991
46. Secondary School Division, 1991-1992
47. Secondary School Division, auditions and scholarships, 1992
48. Secondary School Division, 1992-1993
49. Secondary Festival, 1995-1997
50. Secondary mini-festival and marketing, 1996

Subseries 5: College Theatre Division

1. College Division, 1953-1958
2. College Division, Directory of N.E. Colleges, 1959
3. College Division, 1967-1968
4. College Division, 1969-1979
5. College and Community Theatre Divisions, adjudication workshop, 1975
6. College Division, 1979-1990
7. College Division, Chamber Theatre workshop, 1980
8. College and Community Theatre Divisions, adjudication workshop, 1983
9. College and Secondary School Divisions, theatre education curriculum development, 1983-1986
10. College and Community Theatre Divisions, adjudication workshop, 1987
11. College and Community Theatre Divisions, adjudications, general info, and guidelines, 1988
12. College and Community Theatre Divisions, adjudication workshop, 1990
13. College Division, 1990-1992
14. American College Theatre Division Festival, 1991-1995
15. American College Theatre Division Festivals, 1996-1998

Subseries 6: Events

Box 5

Folder

1. NETC Tenth Annual Drama Competition, 1962
2. NETC Drama Festival, 1962-77
3. NETC Thirteenth Annual Drama Competition, 1966
4. NETC Fourteenth Annual Drama Competition, 1967
5. NETC Fifteenth Annual Drama Competition, 1968
6. NETC Seventeenth Annual Drama Festival, 1970
7. NETC Eighteenth Annual Drama Festival, 1971
8. NETC Nineteenth Annual Drama Festival, 1972
9. NETC Twentieth Annual Drama Festival, 1973
10. NETC Twenty-second Annual Drama Festival, 1975
11. NETC Mini-Convention, Hartford, CT, 1975
12. NETC Mini-Convention, Putney, VT, 1976
13. NETC Drama Festival, 1976
14. NETC Mini-Convention, Norton, MA, 1977

15. NETC Mini-Convention, Portland, ME, 1978
16. NETC Annual Drama Festival "Celebration 25," 1978
17. NETC Community Theater Drama Festival, 1992

Series 3: Publications, 1953-2011**Subseries 1: Journals****Box 1****Folder**

1. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 1 No. 1, Fall 1969
2. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 1 No. 2, Spring 1970
3. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 2 No. 1, Winter 1970-1971
4. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 1 No. 1, 1990
5. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 2 No. 1, 1991
6. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 3 No. 1, 1992
7. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 4, 1993
8. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 5, 1994
9. New England Theatre Journal, Vol. 22, 2011

Subseries 2: NETC News (newsletter) and NETC Bulletin

1. Bulletin of the New England Theatre Conference Vol. 1 No. 1-2 and information pertaining to its origin, 1953
2. Bulletin of the NETC, Vol. 1 No. 1-5 (volume number resets in 1954), 1954-1956
3. Bulletin of the NETC, Vol. 2 No. 1-3, 1956-1957
4. New England Theatre Conference Bulletin, 1957
5. New England Theatre Conference Bulletin, Vol. 2 No. 2-3, 1959
6. NETC Newsletter, Vo. 1 No. 1-2, 1959
7. New England Theatre Conference Bulletin, Vo. 3 No. 1-2, 1960
8. NETC Newsletter, Vol. 2 No. 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 1960-1961
9. New England Theatre Conference Bulletin, Vo. 4 No. 1, 1961
10. NETC Newsletter, Vol. 3 No. 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 1961-1962
11. NETC Newsletter, Vol. 4 No. 1-4, 6-10, 1962-1963
12. NETC Newsletter, Vol. 5 No. 1-8, 1963-1964
13. NETC Newsletter, Vol. 6 No. 1-6, 1964-1965; Vol. 7 No. 1-6, 1965-1966
14. NETC News, Vol. 8 No. 1-6, 1966-1967
15. NETC News, Vol. 9 No. 2-6, 1968-1969
16. NETC News, Vol. 10 No. 1, 1968
17. NETC News, 1969-1970
18. NETC News, 1970-1971
19. NETC News, 1971-1972
20. NETC News, 1972-1973
21. NETC News, 1973-1974
22. NETC News, 1974-1975
23. NETC News, 1975-1976
24. NETC News, 1976-1977
25. NETC News, 1977-1978

26. NETC News, 1978-1979
27. NETC News, 1979-1980
28. NETC News, 1980-1981
29. NETC News, 1981-1982
30. NETC News, 1982-1983

Box 2**Folder**

1. NETC News, 1983-1984
2. NETC News, 1984-1985
3. NETC News, 1985-1986
4. NETC News, 1986-1987
5. NETC News, 1988
6. NETC News, 1989
7. NETC News, 1990
8. NETC News, 1991
9. NETC News, Vol. 1 No. 1-2 (new volume sequence), 1991
10. NETC News, Vol. 2 No. 1-5, 1992
11. NETC News, Vol. 3 No. 1-5, 1993
12. NETC News, Vol. 4 No. 1-6, 1994
13. Other newsletters, 1994-1995
14. NETC News, Vol. 5 No. 1-6, 1995
15. NETC News, Vol. 6 No. 1-6, 1996
16. NETC News, Vol. 7 No. 1-5, 1997
17. NETC News, Vol. 8 No. 1-5, 1998
18. NETC News, Vol. 9 No. 1-4, 1999
19. NETC News, Vol. 10 No. 1, 3-4, 2000-2001
20. NETC News, Vol. 11 No. 1-4, 2001-2002
21. NETC News, Vol. 12 No. 1-4, 2002-2003
22. NETC News, Vol. 13 No. 1-4, 2004
23. NETC News, Vol. 14 No. 1-4, 2005
24. NETC News, Vol. 15 No. 1-2, 4, 2005-2006
25. NETC News, Vol. 16 No. 4, 2007
26. NETC News, Vol. 17 No. 1, 2008

Subseries 3: NETC Publications and Directories

1. Compilation of "Ten Best" Play Lists, 1955
2. "The Right Play in the Right Place," by Marston Balch, 1956
3. "Are Audiences Getting the Plays They Want?" by Henry B. Williams, 1957
4. The Five Divisions of the New England Theatre Conference Present their Most Satisfying Productions, 1956-1961," 1961
5. Directory of New England Summer Theatres, 1963
6. "Repertory Theatre in America: The Problem and the Promise," edited by Elliot Norton and Samuel Hirsch, 1964
7. "The Actor in America: The Problem and the Promise," edited by Elliot Norton and Eugene J. Blackman, 1965

8. "The Playwright in America: The Problem and the Promise," edited by Eugene J. Blackman and Mort S. Kaplan, forward by Elliot Norton, 1966
9. NETC Membership Directory, 1952-1953
10. NETC Membership Directories, 1958-1965
11. NETC Membership Directories, 1966-1972
12. NETC Membership Directories, 1973-1979
13. NETC Membership Directories, 1980-1987
14. NETC Membership Directories, 1989-1992

Box 3**Folder**

1. NETC Resource Directory, 1994-1995
2. NETC Resource Directory, 1995-1996
3. NETC Resource Directory, 1996-1997
4. NETC Resource Directory, 1997
5. NETC Resource Directory, 1998
6. NETC Resource Directory, 2000
7. NETC Resource Directory, 2001
8. NETC Resource Directory, 2002
9. NETC Member and Resource Directory, 2004
10. NETC Design & Technology Exchange Newsletter, Vol. 1 No. 2-4, 1977-1978
11. NETC Design & Technology Exchange Newsletter, Vol. 2 No. 1-3, 1978-1979
12. NETC Design & Technology Exchange Newsletter, Vol. 3 No. 1-2, 1979-1980
13. NETC Design & Technology Exchange Newsletter, Vol. 4 No. 1-4, 1980-1981
14. NETC Design & Technology Exchange Newsletter, Vol. 5 No. 1-2, 1981-1982

Series 4: Awards, 1957-2002**Subseries 1: Moss Hart Memorial Award****Box 1****Folder**

1. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1961-1962
2. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1962-1963
3. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1963-1964
4. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1964-1965
5. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1965-1966
6. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1966-1967
7. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1967-1968
8. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1968-1969
9. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1969-1970
10. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1970-1971
11. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1971-1972
12. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1972-1973
13. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1973-1974
14. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1974-1975
15. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1975-1976

16. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1976-1977
17. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1977-1978
18. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1978-1979
19. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1979-1980
20. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1980-1981
21. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1981-1982
22. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1982-1983
23. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1983-1984
24. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1984-1985
25. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1985-1986
26. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1986-1987
27. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1987-1988
28. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1988-1989
29. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1989-1993
30. Moss Hart Memorial Award, Chair Procedure Forms, 1992-1997
31. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1992-1993
32. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1994-1995
33. Moss Hart Memorial Award Files, 1995-1996
34. Moss Hart Memorial Award Files, 1995-1996
35. Moss Hart Memorial Award, list of reviewers, 1995-1997
36. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1996-1997
37. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1997-1998
38. Moss Hart Memorial Award, 1998-1999
39. Moss Hart Memorial Award, list of annual winners, 1962-1993
40. Moss Hart Memorial Award, information on award winners, 1993-2000
41. Moss Hart Memorial Award, application correspondence, 2001-2002

Subseries 2: John Gassner Memorial Award

1. John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Award, 1962-1963
2. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1963-1964
3. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1964-1965
4. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1965-1966
5. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1966-1967
6. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1967-1968
7. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1968-1969
8. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1969-1970
9. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1970-1971
10. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1971-1972
11. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1972-1973

Box 2**Folder**

1. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1973-1974
2. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1974-1975
3. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1975-1976
4. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1976-1977

5. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1977-1978
6. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1978-1979
7. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1979-1980
8. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1980-1981
9. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1981-1982
10. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1982-1983
11. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1983-1984
12. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1984-1985
13. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1985-1986
14. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1986-1987
15. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1987-1988
16. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1988-1989
17. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1990-1991
18. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1991-1992
19. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1992-1993
20. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1993-1994
21. John Gassner Memorial Award list of annual winners, 1963-1993
22. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1996-1997
23. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1998
24. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1999
25. John Gassner Memorial Award, 1999
26. John Gassner Memorial Award, submitted play, 2002

Subseries 3: Major, Special, Regional, and Other Awards

1. NETC Annual Awards, 1957-1993
2. NETC Annual Awards list, 1957-2002
3. NETC Annual Award—Jack Stein Make-up Award, 1976-1993
4. NETC high school student “Technical Theatre Design Recognition” Awards, 1980-1993
5. NETC award list for the John J. Goodwill Memorial Award, 1981-1993
6. NETC Host Awards, 1985-1993
7. NETC Ruth McIntire Community Theatre Service Award, 1986-1992
8. NETC Phillip Bassett Memorial Award, 1986-1993
9. NETC award information, 1990s
10. NETC Awards for Excellence, 1992-1995

Box 3

Folder

1. NETC College Festival Awards, 1993-1999
2. NETC Elliot Norton Award list, 1993-2000
3. NETC Awards and Ceremonies, 1994-1995
4. NETC Awards, 1995-1996
5. NETC Awards, 1997
6. NETC Awards, 1998
7. NETC Excellence in Theatre Awards, 1997
8. NETC Excellence in Theatre Awards, 1998
9. NETC Excellence in Theatre Awards, 1998-2001

10. NETC Excellence in Theatre Awards, 1999

11. NETC Harris Award, 1999

Series 5: Committees, 1950-2004

Subseries 1: Executive Committee and Board Meetings

Box 1

Folder

1. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1950-1951
2. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1951-1952
3. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1952-1953
4. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1953-1954
5. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1954-1955
6. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1955-1956
7. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1956-1957
8. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1957-1958
9. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1958-1959
10. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1959-1960
11. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1960-1961
12. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1961-1962
13. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1962-1963
14. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1963-1964
15. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1964-1965
16. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1965-1966
17. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1966-1967
18. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1967-1968
19. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1968-1969
20. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1969-1970
21. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1970-1971
22. Executive Board—Divisions—Committees Operating Guidelines, 1971-1988
23. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1971-1972
24. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1972-1973
25. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1973-1974
26. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1974-1975
27. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1975-1976
28. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1976-1977
29. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1977-1978
30. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1978-1979
31. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1979-1980

Box 2

Folder

1. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1980-1981
2. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1981-1982
3. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1982-1983
4. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1983-1984

5. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1984-1985
6. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1985-1986
7. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1986-1987
8. Executive Board—Divisions—Committees Administrative Structure Chart, 1987-1989
9. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1987-1988
10. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1988-1989
11. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1989-1990
12. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1990-1991
13. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1991-1992
14. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1992-1993
15. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1993-1994
16. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1994-1995
17. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1995-1996
18. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1996-1997
19. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1997-1998
20. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1998-1999
21. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 1999-2000
22. Executive Committee and Board Meeting, 2004

Subseries 2: Other Committees

Box 3

Folder

1. Special Projects Committee: Service Committee, 1955
2. Special Projects Committee: Life Enhancing Plays Committee, 1956
3. Special Projects Committee: Prize Play Committee, 1957
4. Special Projects Committee: Speakers Bureau & Consultation Service, 1957-1973
5. Special Projects Committee, 1960-1961
6. Religious Drama Committee, 1960-1968
7. Special Projects Committee, 1961-1962
8. Special Projects Committee: New Scripts Committee, 1962
9. Special Projects Committee, 1962-1963
10. Special Projects Committee, 1963-1964
11. Special Projects Committee: Theatrical Talent Registry, 1963-1966
12. NETC Political Action Committee, 1963-1968
13. NETC Dance Committee, 1964-1970
14. Special Projects Committee, 1964-1965
15. Special Projects Committee, 1965-1966
16. Special Projects Committee, 1966-1967
17. Special Projects Committee, 1967-1968
18. Special Projects Committee: Premiere Play Plan, 1969
19. NETC Technical Theatre Committee: Agreement with USITT/New England, 1984
20. NETC Technical Theatre Committee: Adolphie Appia Exhibit, 1984-1985
21. NETC Past President's Committee, 1988-1989
22. NETC Publications Committee, 1992
23. Finance Committee, 1960s-1970s

24. Objectives of Publicity Committee, 1982

Series 6: Financials, 1952-2008**Box 1****Folder**

1. Financial Report, 1952-1953
2. Financial Ledger, 1953-1959
3. Financial Report, 1957-1958
4. Donations and Memorials, 1957-1991
5. Financial Report, 1958-1959
6. Financial Report, 1959-1960
7. Financial Report, 1960-1961
8. Financial Report, 1961-1962
9. Financial Report, 1962-1963
10. Financial Report, 1963-1964
11. Financial Report, 1964-1965
12. Financial Report, 1965-1966
13. Financial Report, 1966-1967
14. Financial Report, 1967-1968
15. Financial Report, 1968-1969
16. Financial Report, 1969-1970
17. Financial Report, 1970-1971
18. Financial Report, 1971-1972
19. Financial Report, 1972-1973
20. Financial Report, 1973-1974
21. Financial Report, 1974-1975
22. Financial Report, 1975-1976
23. Financial Report, 1976-1977
24. Financial Report, 1977-1978
25. Financial Report, 1978-1979
26. Financial Report, 1979-1980
27. Financial Report, 1980-1981
28. Financial Report, 1981-1982
29. Financial Policy for Convention & Program Participants, 1980-1981
30. Financial Reports, 1981-1991
31. Financial Report, 1982-1983
32. Mass Council on Arts Technical Assistance Grant, 1983
33. Financial Report, 1983-1984
34. Financial Report, 1984-1985
35. Financial Report, 1985-1986
36. Mass Council on Arts – Merit Aid Grant, 1985-1986
37. Financial Report, 1986-1987
38. Financial Report, 1987-1988
39. Fundraising and Endowment Information, 1988
40. Financial Report, 1988-1989

41. Financial Report, 1989-1990
42. Financial Report, 1989-1992
43. Financial Report, 1990-1991
44. Financial Report, 1991-1992

Box 2**Folder**

1. Financial Report, 1992-1993
2. Financial Report, 1993
3. Financial Report, 1994
4. Financial Report, 1995
5. Financial Report, 1996
6. Financial Report, 1997
7. Financial Report, 1998
8. Financial Report, 1999
9. Financial Report, 2000
10. Financial Report, 2001
11. Financial Report, 2002
12. Financial Report, 2003
13. Financial Reports and Information, 2007-2008

Series 7: Administrative, 1950-2008**Subseries 1: Membership****Box 1****Folder**

1. Membership, 1952-1953
2. Membership, 1953-1954
3. Membership, 1954-1955
4. Membership, 1955-1956
5. Membership, 1956-1957
6. Membership, 1957-1958
7. Membership, 1958-1959
8. Membership, 1959-1960
9. Membership, 1960-1961
10. Membership, 1961-1962
11. Membership, 1962-1963
12. Membership, 1963-1964
13. Membership, 1964-1965
14. Membership, 1965-1966
15. Membership, 1966-1967
16. Membership, 1967-1968
17. Membership, 1968-1969
18. Membership, 1969-1970
19. Membership, 1970-1971
20. Membership, 1971-1972

21. Membership, 1972-1973
22. Membership, 1973-1974
23. Membership, 1974-1975
24. Membership, 1975-1976
25. NETC honorary membership, 1975-1991
26. Membership, 1976-1977
27. Membership, 1977-1978
28. Membership, 1978-1979
29. Membership, 1979-1980
30. Membership, 1980-1981
31. Membership, 1981-1982
32. Membership, 1982-1983
33. Membership, 1983-1984
34. Membership, 1984-1985
35. Membership, 1985-1986
36. Membership, 1986-1987
37. Membership, 1987-1988
38. Membership, 1988-1989
39. Membership, 1989-1990
40. Membership, 1990-1991
41. Membership, 1991-1992
42. Membership reports, 1992-1998
43. Membership, 1952-1993
44. Membership, 1993-1994
45. Membership, 1994-1995
46. Membership, 1995-1996
47. Membership, 1996-1997
48. Membership, 1997-1998
49. Membership, 1998-1999
50. Membership, College of Fellows, 1999
51. Membership, 1999-2000
52. List of members and board of directors, 2004-2005

Subseries 2: Auditions

1. Summer Theatre auditions, 1967-1969
2. Summer Theatre auditions, 1970-1973
3. Summer Theatre auditions, 1974
4. Summer Theatre auditions, 1975-1976
5. Summer Theatre auditions, 1977
6. Summer Theatre auditions, 1978
7. Summer Theatre auditions, 1979
8. Summer Theatre auditions, 1980
9. Summer Theatre auditions, 1981
10. Summer Theatre auditions, 1982
11. Summer Theatre auditions, 1983
12. Summer Theatre auditions, 1984

13. Summer Theatre auditions, 1985
14. Summer Theatre auditions, 1986
15. Summer Theatre auditions, 1987

Box 2**Folder**

1. Summer Theatre auditions, 1988
2. Summer Theatre auditions, 1989
3. Summer Theatre auditions, 1990
4. Summer Theatre auditions, 1991
5. Summer Theatre auditions, 1992
6. NETC auditions, 1993
7. Producer Information for auditions, 1993-1997
8. NETC auditions, 1994
9. Audition press releases and promotional material, 1994-1996
10. NETC auditions, 1995
11. NETC auditions, 1996
12. NETC auditions, 1997
13. NETC auditions, 1998
14. NETC auditions, 1999
15. NETC auditions, 2000
16. NETC auditions, 2002
17. NETC auditions, 2003
18. NETC auditions, 2004
19. NETC auditions, 2005
20. NETC auditions, 2006

Subseries 3: By-laws, Constitutions, Agreements, etc.

1. NETC Constitution and By-laws, 1950-1971
2. Operating-Long Range Planning, 1950s-1990
3. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1973
4. Certificate of Organization, 1973-1974
5. Articles of Incorporation, 1974
6. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1974
7. Operating NETC/ATA Agreement, 1967-1983

Box 3**Folder**

1. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1976
2. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1978
3. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1979
4. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1983
5. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1986
6. NETC Rules and Procedures Manual, 1980s
7. NETC Rules and Procedures Manual, 1988-1994
8. NETC By-laws, 1988-1993

9. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1989
10. NETC Constitution and By-laws—amendments, 1992
11. NETC Constitution, 1992
12. NETC By-law revisions, 1992-1994
13. NETC Fundability Assessment by Corey Boniface, 1993
14. Mass. Office of Attorney General, Div. of Public Charities—annual reports, 1974-1992
15. Mass. Office of Attorney General, Div. of Public Charities—annual reports, 1993-2002
16. NETC By-laws, 1998
17. Mass. Office of Attorney General—registration and filings, 1998-2002
18. Documents for planning a new strategic plan, 2000
19. NETC Strategic Plan, 2001

Subseries 4: Board of Directors

1. Board of Directors listings, 1952-1994
2. NETC Executive Board, 1972-2002
3. Information packet for new board members, 1987
4. Board Directors meetings, 1989-1992
5. Annual business meeting minutes, 1990-2000
6. Annual secretary report, 1990-2000
7. Board of Directors, 1990
8. Board of Directors, 1991
9. Board of Directors, 1992
10. Board of Directors meetings, 1992-1993
11. Board of Directors elections, 1992-1993
12. Board of Directors minutes, 1992-1995
13. Board records, 1992-1997
14. Board records, 1992-2008
15. Board of Directors correspondence, 1992-1998
16. Board of Directors meetings, 1993-1994
17. Board elections, 1994
18. Board meetings, 1994-1995
19. List of past NETC presidents from 1952-1993, 1995
20. Board related reports, 1994-1999
21. Board meetings, 1995-1996

Box 4

Folder

1. Board elections, 1995-1997
2. Board meetings, 1996-1997
3. Board of Directors member reports, 1996-1997
4. Board meetings, 1997-1999
5. Board meetings, 1998-1999
6. Board elections, 1999
7. Board meetings, 1999-2000
8. Board elections, 2000
9. Board of Directors biographies, 2000

10. Board meetings, 2002
11. Board meetings, 2002-2003
12. Board meetings and minutes, 2002-2004
13. Board meetings, 2002-2008
14. Board of Directors guidelines, undated

Subseries 5: Information on Publications

1. NETC publication background information on "The Actor in America," 1966
2. New England Theatre Journal information, Vol. 1-2, 1969-1973
3. New England Theatre Journal, information on "Experiments in Theatre," 1971
4. New England Theatre Journal information (no issues published), 1974-1977
5. New England Theatre Journal information (no issues published), 1974-1977
6. New England Theatre Journal revival attempt, 1979-1980
7. New England Theatre Journal information, Vol. 1 No. 1, 1986-1990
8. Newsletter correspondence, 1991-1994
9. Journal copyright forms, 1992-1995
10. Information on NETC publications, 1993
11. New England Theatre Journal call for proposals, 1994
12. New England Theatre Journal electronic subscription service with EBSCO, 1999-2001

Subseries 6: Histories, Obituaries, News, etc.

1. Elliot Norton material on his death—news clippings, obituary, etc., 2003
2. Sherwood Collins, death and interview, 1999
3. NETC Community Theatre Division, history of annual drama festival, 1954-2002
4. NETC Community Theatre festival history, 1954-2000
5. Newspaper publicity, 1969-1992
6. Newspaper publicity, 1992-1993
7. Mort Clark, 1994
8. Sherwood Collins retirement, 1994

Subseries 7: Miscellaneous

Box 5

Folder

1. State tax exemption certificate, 1959-1995
2. NETC officers, 1968-1982
3. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England by-laws and operating procedures, 1971
4. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1968-1969
5. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1969-1980
6. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1980-1981
7. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1981-1982
8. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1982-1983
9. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1983-1990
10. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1984-1985
11. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1990-1992
12. Technical Theatre – USITT/New England, 1991-1999

13. Operating Executive Committee Outreach, 1985-1988
14. NETC/Colleges, 1987-1991
15. Allan Albert – The First East Coast New Vaudeville Festival: A Proposal for the New England Theater Conference, 1989
16. NETC brochures and flyers, 1961-1992
17. NETC job announcement, Administrative Assistant, 1991
18. Administrative Assistant employment agreement with Barbara Hilliard, 1991-1992
19. Press and publicity, 1991-1993
20. Northeastern University and NETC partnership material, 1991-2002
21. NETC Manager of Operations position, 1992
22. Publications Committee, 1992
23. NETC Fellows, 1992, 1994, undated
24. NETC High School Day, 1992-1994
25. Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts calendar, 1993
26. NETC press releases, 1993-1999
27. NETC letters of inquiry, 1993-1998
28. Arts Boston “BOSTIX II” advocacy, 1994
29. NETC College Division reports, 1994-1996
30. Affiliation with Southwest Theatre Association, 1994-1995
31. National Endowment of the Arts funding issues—letters sent to the NETC by Congressman Edward Kennedy, John Kerry, and Marty Meehan, 1995
32. NETC Fund Management, 1996
33. American Association of Community Theatres (AACT), 1996
34. NETC Internships, 1996
35. NETC Division of College/University meeting minutes, 1996
36. NETC Vermont Arts Council grant, 1998-2000
37. NETC web page consultants, 1999
38. Information on NETC, 2002-2004
39. Children’s Theatre Foundation of America grant, 2000
40. NETC award descriptions, c. 2005
41. NETC convention planners’ guidebook, 2005
42. NETC miscellaneous correspondence, 1980-1990
43. NETC correspondence, 1986-2002
44. Past NETC president correspondence, 1988
45. Past NETC president correspondence, 1994-2000
46. NETC officer, Henry Zappala, administrative records, 1995-1996
47. “Treasured” correspondence, 1995
48. Correspondence on conference complaints, 1999
49. Notes and correspondence, 2002-2004
50. Notes and correspondence, 2006-2008
51. NETC playwriting for young audiences, includes script for “Gluttons that Ate Chicago,” 1995-2006
52. Submissions for Gassner playwriting award, 2004
53. Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for 50 years of dedicated service by the NETC, signed by James Langevin, 2001

54. Certificate and congratulatory letters from members of the U.S. Senate for the NETC 50th anniversary, includes letters from Lincoln Chafee, Jack Reed, and Judd Gregg, 2001
55. Research project on past NETC presidents, 1995

Series 8: NETC 50th Anniversary Oral History Project, 1994-2002

Box 1

Folder

(All transcriptions include edited and unedited versions)

1. Letter from Sherwood Collins to Elaine Perry about editing transcribed interviews, 2000
2. Transcribed interview of Barbara Horrigan and Marie Philips, undated
3. Transcribed interview of Joe Juliano (NETC President, 1982-1985), 1994
4. Transcribed interview of Jim Barnhill, a founder of the organization, undated
5. Transcribed interview of Kitty Carlisle Hart, 1999
6. Transcribed interview of Sherwood (Jerry) Collins (NETC President, 1973-1974; 1979-1980), 1999
7. Transcribed interview of Barbara Horrigan, 2000
8. Transcribed interview of Barbara Horrigan and Marie Philips, 2000
9. Transcribed interview of Elliot Norton, (founding president, 1952-1953), 1997
10. Transcribed interview with edits of Elliot Norton, (founding president, 1952-1953), 1997
11. Transcribed interview of Don Babbitt, 2001
12. Transcribed interview of Paul Barston (NETC President, 1957-1960), 2000
13. Transcribed interview of Eugene Blackman (NETC President, 1960-1963; 1967-1968), 2000
14. Transcribed interview of Charles Combs, 2000
15. Transcribed interview of Joyce Devlin (NETC President, 1985-1987), 2001
16. Transcribed interview of David Allen George (NETC President, 1993-1997), 2001
17. Transcribed interview of William Hutchinson, 1999
18. Transcribed interview of Joe Juliano (NETC President, 1982-1985), 2000
19. Transcribed interview of Mort Kaplan (NETC President, 1969-1970), 2000
20. Transcribed interview of Carol Korty, 1999
21. Transcribed interview of William Lacey, 1995
22. Transcribed interview of Steve Mendelson and Norm Leger, 1999
23. Transcribed interview of Bob McDonald (NETC President, 1989-1993), 2000
24. Transcribed interview of Linda Murphy, 1999
25. Transcribed interview of Leo Nickole (NETC President, 1970-1971), 2000
26. Transcribed interview of Elaine Perry, 2001
27. Transcribed interview of Ed Rondeau (NETC President, 1981-1982), 2001
28. Transcribed interview of Pat Sankus, 2000
29. Transcribed interview of Tom Scharff (NETC President, 1980-1981), 2000
30. Transcribed interview of Steve Thorson (NETC President, 1987-1989), 2001
31. Transcribed interview of Richard Warye, 1999
32. Transcribed interview of John Welch, 1999
33. Transcribed interview of John (Jack) Woodruff (NETC President, 1953-1955), 1995
34. Transcribed interview of Hank Zappala, 2000
35. Rough draft interviews and notes from Hank Zappala, 2002
36. Photographs used in the publication, "NETC, 50 Years: A Commemorative History,"

37. Publication, NETC, 50 Years: A Commemorative History (An Oral History of the New England Theatre Conference), 2001

Box 2

-Box 2 is filled with audio cassettes of interviews done for the 50th anniversary project, as well as floppy disks and cds that have transcriptions of the interviews.

Series 9: Photographs and Audio/Video, 1964-2000**Subseries 1: Photographs****Box 1****Folder**

1. Convention photographs-includes images of playwright Arthur Miller, 1969
2. Convention photographs, 1971
3. Convention photographs, 1974
4. Convention photographs, 1975
5. Convention photographs, 1976
6. Convention photographs, 1978
7. Convention photographs, c. 1980
8. Convention photographs, 1982
9. Convention photographs, 1983
10. Convention photographs, 1986
11. Convention photographs, 1987
12. Convention photographs, 1988
13. Convention photographs, 1989
14. Convention photographs, 1993
15. Convention photographs, 1994
16. Convention photographs, 1995
17. Convention photographs, 1996
18. Convention photographs, 1997
19. Convention photographs, 1998
20. Convention photographs, 1999
21. Convention photographs, undated
22. Convention photographs, undated
23. Photograph of Kitty Carlisle Hart and Elliot Norton with Moss Hart Award winner, 1974
24. Negatives of Kitty Carlisle Hart, 1994
25. Photographs for the New England Theatre Journal, volume 10, 1999
26. Photographs for the New England Theatre Journal, volume 11, 2000
27. Photographs of Ellsworth Hall Theatre, Pine Manor College, 2000
28. Photographs of Walpole Footlighters Playhouse, c. 2000
29. Unidentified photo, undated
30. Unidentified photo and negatives, undated

Subseries 2: Audio/Video

(Box 1 continued)

-Series of audio recordings, mostly all on reels, from the 1960s – 1980s from annual conventions. More detail will be added after future digitization.

Oversized Items

-Commonwealth of Massachusetts framed document indicating the New England Theatre Conference has gained corporation status, 1974

-Framed document proclaiming New England Theatre Conference Week in New Haven, CT, Nov. 2, 1987